

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Calin TURCANU	Confirmation No.: 2893
Application No.: 10/560,109	Examiner: Lam, Dung Le
Filed: January 17, 2006	Group Art Unit: 2617

For: GROUP CALL IN A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed concurrently herewith.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Nokia Corporation is the real party in interest.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is unaware of any related appeals and interferences.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 are pending in this appeal, in which claims 1 through 13, 15, 16, 19, and 20 have earlier been canceled. Claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 were previously presented. Claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 have been finally rejected in an

Office Action dated March 19, 2010. It is from the final rejection of claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 that this Appeal is taken.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No Amendment has been submitted subsequent to the issuance of the final Office Action dated March 19, 2010.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed inventions involve a user device using a phonebook application to manage contact information and set up ad-hoc group calls. The ad-hoc groups are created spontaneously for temporary use, and the ad-hoc groupings are deleted from the phonebook, for example, when the ad-hoc group calls end, when the initiator leaves the ad-hoc group call, when all group members leave the ad-hoc group call, or after a certain idle time without any speech traffic.

Independent claim 14 reads as follows:

14. A method, comprising:

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037] of the corresponding US Pub. No. 2006/0128411);

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0033], [0035], [0037], [0046]);

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface (See, e.g., ¶ [0037]; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

receiving the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0037], [0038], [0041]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 503 in FIG. 5);

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0037], [0038], [0041]; "Make Poc call", an "Off-hook" key 40, and a "Select" key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5);

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0042], [0044], [0041]; "Poc call" in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6); and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

Independent claim 17 reads as follows:

17. An apparatus comprising (See, e.g., ¶ [0032]; a user terminal in FIG. 3):

at least one processor (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0032], [0033]; a controller 305 in FIG. 3); and

at least one memory including computer program code (See, e.g., ¶[0032], “a program comprising program code” in canceled claim 9 and claim 19, “a storage medium comprising an executable program” in canceled claim 10 and claim 20),

the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to perform at least the following (See, e.g., ¶ [0032]),

store a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; a user terminal in FIG. 3);

store presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0033], [0035], [0037], [0046]);

open the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface (See, e.g., ¶ [0037]; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

display the list of subscribers on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

receive the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶[0037], [0038], [0041]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 503 in FIG. 5);

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, provide appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers

and the user of the subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶[0037], [0038], [0041]; “Make Poc call”, an “Off-hook” key 40, and a “Select” key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5);

send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions (See, e.g., ¶¶[0042], [0044], [0041]; “Poc call” in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6); and

delete the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶[0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

Independent claim 18 reads as follows:

18. An apparatus, comprising (See, e.g., ¶[0032]; a user terminal in FIG. 3):

a controller configured to display a list of subscribers of a phonebook application on a user interface, a phonebook of said phonebook application containing said list of subscribers and presence information of the subscribers, and said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g., ¶¶[0032], [0033]; a controller 305 in FIG. 3; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 501 in FIG. 5),

said controller being configured, in response to the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface, to display a group communications menu on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶[0037]; FIG. 4B),

said controller being configured, in response to the user's selection of two or more subscribers from the list via the user interface and the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the apparatus (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0037], [0038], [0041]; "Make Poc call", an "Off-hook" key 40, and a "Select" key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5),

said controller being configured to send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the apparatus during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plan functions (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0042], [0044], [0041]; "Poc call" in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6), and

wherein the user's selection of the ad-hoc group is deleted from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

Independent claim 21 reads as follows:

21. An apparatus, comprising (See, e.g., ¶ [0032]; a user terminal in FIG. 3):

a radio transceiver with a group communication capability (See, e.g., ¶ [0032]; an RF unit 304 in FIG. 3);

a memory containing a phonebook that includes a list of subscribers of a phonebook application, and presence information of said subscribers, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g.,

Abstract, ¶[0032], [0037]; “a storage medium comprising an executable program” in canceled claim 10 and claim 20),

a controller connected to a user interface from a user of the apparatus via which a group call activation can be received with a selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from said list of the phonebook application (See, e.g., ¶[0032], [0033]; a controller 305 in FIG. 3),

said controller being further connected to said transceiver to send via said transceiver to a group communication service in a network infrastructure an ad-hoc group call setup control plane function signaling for said new ad-hoc group call with the newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the apparatus (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶[0037], [0038], [0041]; “Make Poc call”, an “Off-hook” key 40, and a “Select” key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5),

said controller being configured to send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the apparatus during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions (See, e.g., ¶[0042], [0044], [0041]; “Poc call” in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6), and

wherein the user's selection of the ad-hoc group is deleted from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶[0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

Independent claim 22 reads as follows:

22. A computer-readable tangible storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause an apparatus to at least

perform the following steps (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0032], [0033], “a program comprising program code” in canceled claim 9 and claim 19, “a storage medium comprising an executable program” in canceled claim 10 and claim 20; a controller 305 in FIG. 3):

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; a user terminal in FIG. 3);

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook application, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0033], [0035], [0037], [0046]);

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface (See, e.g., ¶ [0037]; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

in response to the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface, displaying a group communications menu on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; FIG. 4B);

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0037], [0038], [0041]; “Make Poc call”, an “Off-hook” key 40, and a “Select” key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5);

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0042], [0044], [0041]; “Poc call” in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6); and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

Independent claim 23 reads as follows:

23. A computer-readable tangible storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause an apparatus to at least perform the following steps (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0032], [0033], “a program comprising program code” in canceled claim 9 and claim 19, “a storage medium comprising an executable program” in canceled claim 10 and claim 20; a controller 305 in FIG. 3):

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]);

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook application, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0033], [0035], [0037], [0046]);

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface (See, e.g., ¶ [0037]; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶ [0037]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 501 in FIG. 5);

receiving the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶[0037], [0038], [0041]; the contact list in FIG. 4A; Step 503 in FIG. 5);

in response to the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶[0037], [0038], [0041]; "Make Poc call", an "Off-hook" key 40, and a "Select" key 41 in FIG. 4B; Steps 505, 506, 508, in FIG. 5);

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions (See, e.g., ¶¶ [0042], [0044], [0041]; "Poc call" in FIG. 4C; Step 509 in FIG. 5; Steps 606, 607 in FIG. 6); and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends (See, e.g., Abstract, ¶¶ [0044], [0045]; Step 511 in FIG. 5).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness predicated upon *Mathis* (US 2003/0119540) in view of *Griffin et al.* (US 2003/0155447) and *Lopponen et al.* (US 2002/0150091).

VII. ARGUMENT

CLAIMS 14, 17, 18, AND 20 THROUGH 30 ARE NOT RENDERED OBVIOUS BY MATHIS, GRIFFIN ET AL. AND LOPPONEN ET AL. BECAUSE NONE OF THE REFERENCES DISCLOSES OR SUGGESTS DELETING THE USER'S SELECTION OF THE AD-HOC GROUP FROM THE PHONEBOOK WHEN SAID NEW AD-HOC GROUP CALL ENDS.

The initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* basis to deny patentability to a claimed invention under any statutory provision always rests upon the Examiner. *In re Mayne*, 104 F.3d 1339, 41 USPQ2d 1451 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Deuel*, 51 F.3d 1552, 34 USPQ2d 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 26 USPQ2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In rejecting a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner is required to provide a factual basis to support the obviousness conclusion. *In re Warner*, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 USPQ 173 (CCPA 1967); *In re Lunsford*, 357 F.2d 385, 148 USPQ 721 (CCPA 1966); *In re Freed*, 425 F.2d 785, 165 USPQ 570 (CCPA 1970). That burden has not been discharged.

Appellant submits that the Examiner's obviousness rejection is not factually viable as all features of the claims are not disclosed by the applied references, taken singly or in combination. In the Final Office Action of March 19, 2010, the Examiner admitted that *Mathis* is silent with respect to an ad-hoc group (p. 3, 4th paragraph of the OA). *Griffin et al.* were said to discuss an ad-hoc group creating process (FIGs. 9-10). *Lopponen et al.* were said teach "deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends" as recited in independent claim 14 and similarly recited in claims 17, 18, and 21-23. The Examiner is wrong.

It appears the Examiner equated the claim feature "deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends" to "releasing the link and the bear thus resulting in deleting the selected group" of *Lopponen et al.* Appellant submits that

one having ordinary skill in the art would have immediately recognized that “dissolving/releasing the bear/link” and “deleting the selected group” are two independent operations, particularly in the context of the claimed inventions such that one operation does not lead to the other operation as asserted by the Examiner. Specifically, “dissolving/releasing the bear/link” is a part of “ending the ad-hoc group call,” that is an operation independent from “deleting the user’s selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook.”

The claimed inventions provide a “phonebook application 302” depicted in the user terminal UT in FIG. 3. The phonebook application 302 provides “the user with a tool for maintaining and managing contact information, such as telephone numbers, names, addresses, presence information, etc. of desired individuals or groups (§ [0036]).” In addition, the phonebook application 302 interacts with the user and a PoC application 301 to establish an ad-hoc group, and then to establish a respective ad-hoc group call (e.g., FIG. 5).

The ad-hoc group contains selected contacts (e.g., Caria, Frank, and Mike) and an initiating user, and the ad-hoc group is created **before** setting up a respective ad-hoc group call. In the context of the claimed inventions, the “ad-hoc group” refers to the grouping of the contacts ([0002]), which is formed earlier than a respective “ad-hoc group call” that involves establishing communication for the group.

Paragraph [0041] of the application provides the following:

“More particularly, when the phonebook application 302 detects that the user has selected the “Make PoC call” operation (step 506 in Figure), the phonebook application 302 may command the group communication client application 301 ... to create **an ad-hoc group containing the selected contacts and the initiating user** (step 508 in FIG. 5; step 603 in FIG. 6). **Then** the group communication system 21 contacts the group communication client

applications in terminals of these group members "Carla", "Frank" and "Mike" in order to **let the users receive the call**, i.e. it sends a group invitation (step 605 in FIG. 6)."

An "ad-hoc group" and a respective "ad-hoc group call" are further distinguished in the following paragraphs. "The "Make a call" or "Off-hook" selection **starts** the formation of the **ad-hoc group** in the group communication system but the actual **ad-hoc group call** (i.e. the user plane operation) is not started until the PTT is activated by one of the group members." (§ [0043]) "**Usually** the existence of the **group** is limited to the duration of the **group call**." (§ [0037]).

Thereafter, the claimed inventions delete the user's selection of the ad-hoc group when the ad-hoc group call ends. The deletion of the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook is an operation **independent** from ending the ad-hoc group call (i.e., releasing the communication link), such that the user's selection of the ad-hoc group may be deleted based on other rules independent from the status of the respective ad-hoc group call. By way of examples, the user's selection of the ad-hoc group can be deleted when the initiator leaves the group call, when all group members leave the group call, or after a certain idle time without any speech traffic (§ [0045]). In these examples, the ad-hoc group call/link does not end when the user's selection of the ad-hoc group is deleted from the phonebook.

Since the user's selection of the ad-hoc group can be deleted based on different rules independent from the status of the respective ad-hoc group call, ending an ad-hoc group call (including dissolve/release the bear/link) does not lead to "deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook." Therefore, the dissolution/release of the bear/link in *Lopponen et al.* merely ends the ad-hoc group call, but does not "delete the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook."

Based on the foregoing, it is apparent that the Examiner failed to establish a *prime facie* case of obviousness for lack of the requisite factual basis and want of the requisite motivation to combine the applied references. Appellant therefore submits that the imposed rejection of claims 14, 17, 18, and 20 through 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on *Mathis* in view of *Griffin et al.* and *Lopponen et al.* is not factually or legally viable.

VIII. CONCLUSION AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant submits that the Examiner's rejections are in error and, hence, solicit the Honorable Board to reverse the Examiner's rejection of the appealed claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 504213 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG MORI & STEINER, P.C.

June 18, 2010
Date

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IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. - 13. (Canceled)

14. A method, comprising:

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device;

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call;

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface;

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface;

receiving the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface;

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device;

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions; and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

15. - 16. (Canceled)

17. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code,

the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to perform at least the following,

store a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device;

store presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call;

open the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface;

display the list of subscribers on the user interface;

receive the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface;

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, provide appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device;

send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions; and

delete the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

18. An apparatus, comprising:

a controller configured to display a list of subscribers of a phonebook application on a user interface, a phonebook of said phonebook application containing said list of subscribers and presence information of the subscribers, and said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call,

said controller being configured, in response to the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface, to display a group communications menu on the user interface,

said controller being configured, in response to the user's selection of two or more subscribers from the list via the user interface and the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the apparatus,

said controller being configured to send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the apparatus during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plan functions, and

wherein the user's selection of the ad-hoc group is deleted from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

19. - 20. (Canceled)

21. An apparatus, comprising:

a radio transceiver with a group communication capability;

a memory containing a phonebook that includes a list of subscribers of a phonebook application, and presence information of said subscribers, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call,

a controller connected to a user interface from a user of the apparatus via which a group call activation can be received with a selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from said list of the phonebook application,

said controller being further connected to said transceiver to send via said transceiver to a group communication service in a network infrastructure an ad-hoc group call setup control plane function signaling for said new ad-hoc group call with the newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the apparatus,

said controller being configured to send a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the apparatus during said ad hoc group call, wherein said speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions, and

wherein the user's selection of the ad-hoc group is deleted from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

22. A computer-readable tangible storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause an apparatus to at least perform the following steps:

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device;

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook application, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call;

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface;

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface;

in response to the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface, displaying a group communications menu on the user interface;

in response to the user selecting a predetermined operation in the group communications menu or the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device;

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions;

and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

23. A computer-readable tangible storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause an apparatus to at least perform the following steps:

storing a list of subscribers of a phonebook application into a phonebook stored in a subscriber device;

storing presence information of the subscribers in the phonebook application, said presence information including information on the availability of the subscribers for a group call;

opening the phonebook application in response to a predetermined input from the user interface;

displaying the list of subscribers on the user interface;

receiving the user's selection of two or more individual subscribers as an ad-hoc group for a new ad-hoc group call from the list via the user interface;

in response to the user pressing a predetermined button, providing appropriate control plane function signaling with a group communication service in a network infrastructure for establishing said new ad-hoc group call with said newly selected individual subscribers and the user of the subscriber device;

sending a speech item or a speech item request each time a talk activity is detected or indicated in the subscriber device during said ad hoc group call, wherein said the speech item or said speech item request is sent based on settings defined in user plane functions; and

deleting the user's selection of the ad-hoc group from the phonebook when said new ad-hoc group call ends.

24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said controller comprises at least one programmable unit.

25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said controller comprises at least one of a signal processor and a central processing unit.

26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said controller comprises at least one programmable unit.

27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said controller comprises at least one programmable unit.

28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said controller comprises at least one of a signal processor and a central processing unit.

29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said apparatus comprises a subscriber terminal having a speech communication capability.

30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said apparatus comprises a computer device having a capability for speech communication over Internet.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Appellant is unaware of any evidence that is required to be submitted in the present Evidence Appendix.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Appellant is unaware of any related proceedings that are required to be submitted in the present Related Proceedings Appendix.